

Is It Suspicious?

West Des Moines Police Department

Community Education/Outreach

515-222-3333

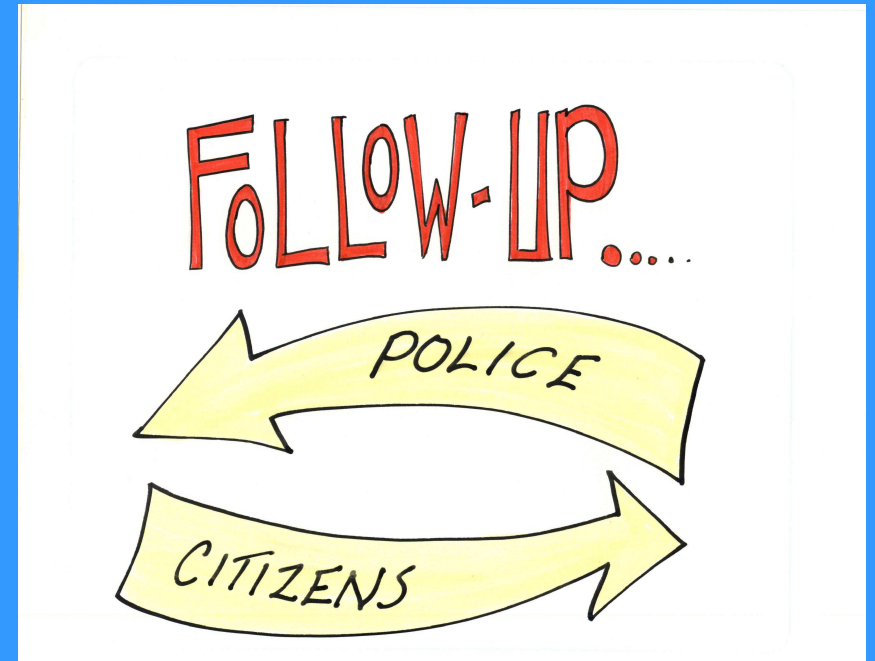
Records – 515-222-3320

Non-Emergency Dispatch – 515-222-3321



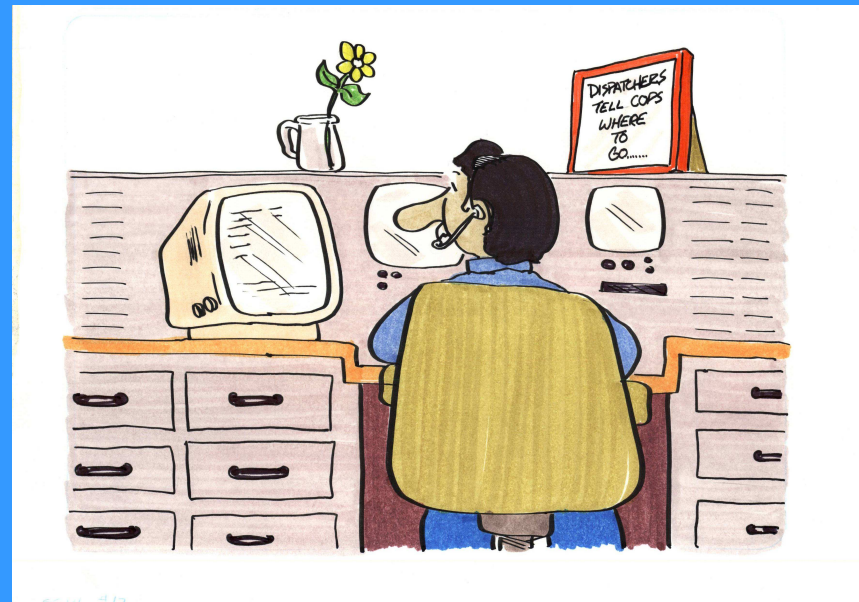
Reporting Neighborhood Crime

- Report all crime to the police department
- For non-emergency crimes call 515-222-3321
- Use 911 for all emergencies and all crimes in progress
- You do not have to identify yourself when reporting a crime, but you may be the only witness
- Give as much information as possible



Reporting Crime

- Stay calm.
- It is important not to panic even though you might be scared.
- Call the police immediately!
- On the phone, give the police the most important information first – the location of the crime, the type of crime, whether there are injuries, where the criminal went, etc.



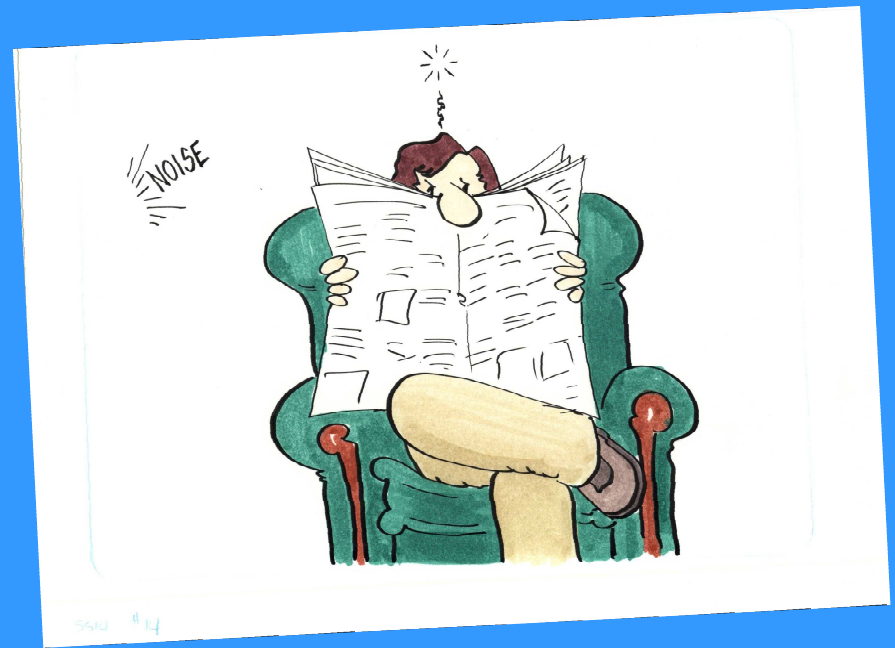
Reporting Crime



- Write down what you saw and heard IMMEDIATELY!
- Tell the police what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, distinctive characteristics (facial hair, scars, tattoos, accent, etc.).
- Describe any vehicle involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features: stickers, dents, or decals, as well as direction of travel from the crime scene.

Reporting Crime (cont.)

- You may be asked to make a complaint or testify in court. Remember, if you don't help the police, the criminal might do it to someone else.
- The police may ask you to attend a look through collections of "mug shots" to try to identify the person you saw commit the crime.



Reporting Neighborhood Crime

- If you suspect drug dealing in your neighborhood, report it immediately to the 24-hour Anonymous Drug Tip Hotline at 515-222-3517
- Provide us with as much information as possible
 - Complete clothing description
 - Complete description of person
 - Where are they hiding the drugs
 - Where are they standing now



Are You A Good Witness?

- The following exercise will help you learn how to know important details that will be helpful when you report a crime.
- The following slide depicts a crime scene. Look at the picture for 5 seconds and write down what you saw. Then look at the slide again.
- How was your description?

Source: *Community Works* curriculum, Teens, Crime and the Community

Are You a Good Witness?

